

X-FACTOR

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PABLO
REBER
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DIRECT EDITION

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR

WHAT'S HAPPENED UP UNTIL NOW

FIRST THERE WAS A BIG BANG, WHICH HAPPENED EITHER BY COSMIC ACCIDENT OR DIVINE PLAN, DEPENDING WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO. FRAGMENTS FLEW IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND EVENTUALLY FORMED THE GALAXIES AND SOLAR SYSTEMS THEREIN. THE EARTH COOLED, LIFE SLUNK OUT OF THE PRIMORDIAL OOZE, MOVING FROM SINGLE-CELL CREATURES TO DINOSAURS TO CHIMPS TO HUMANS, WHO REMAIN ONLY ABOUT 4% DIFFERENT FROM CHIMPS IN THEIR DNA. THEN THERE WERE SOME WARS AND PLAGUES AND THEN STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY CREATED "THE X-MEN," WHICH WAS CANCELLED BUT THEN REVIVED, BECAME A BEST SELLER AND LED TO LOTS OF SPIN-OFFS. AND EVENTUALLY THE X-MEN BROKE UP BUT WERE LATER REUNITED AS X-FACTOR, BUT THEN THEY STOPPED BEING X-FACTOR AND A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO NO ONE WAS THAT INTERESTED IN BECAME X-FACTOR. IT WAS EVENTUALLY CANCELLED, BUT THEN ANDY SCHMIDT GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA TO DO A LIMITED SERIES BASED ON "MADROX," CALLED IN PETER DAVID TO WRITE IT AND PABLO RAIMONDI TO PENCIL IT, AND IT SOLD REAL WELL AND NOW HERE WE ALL ARE.



IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BLOWOUT WITH SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS, THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR HAD A SIT-DOWN WITH PSYCHIATRIST DOC SAMSON. IN THE COURSE OF IT, MADROX ADMITTED TO DOC THAT HE'D BEEN INVOLVED WITH BOTH MONET AND SIRYN. DOC RECOMMENDED BEING HONEST WITH BOTH OF THEM. IT DIDN'T GO ESPECIALLY WELL.

MEANTIME GUIDO DEALS WITH THE AFTERMATH OF HAVING, WHILE UNDER MIND CONTROL, KILLED DR. HENRY BUCHANAN.

THERE WAS ACTUALLY A LOT MORE STUFF THAN THAT, BUT REALLY, WE'D MUCH RATHER THAT YOU JUST GO OUT AND BUY THE THINGS.

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Y EAAAAAH, THIS
DAY ISN'T GOING
THE WAY I'D HOPED.

OKAY, MADROX. STAY COOL.
THINK OF SOMETHING
INCREDIBLY CLEVER TO SAY.

HEY,
THERE.

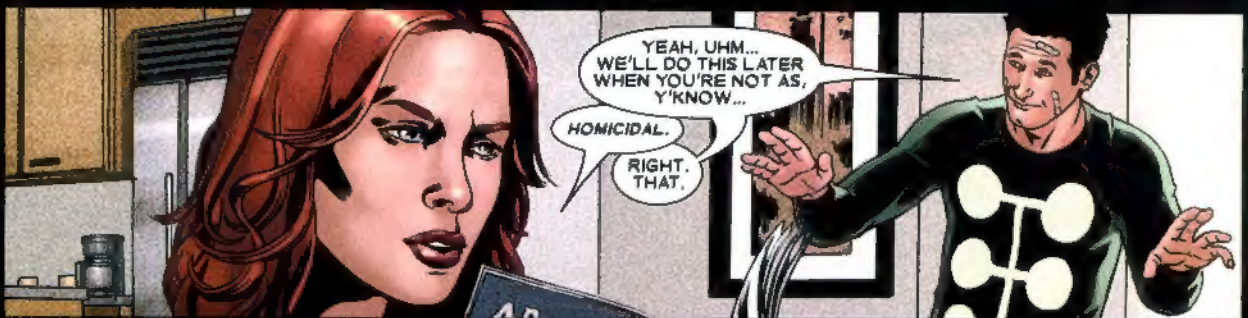
PERFECT. THERE'S
DAZZLINGLY WITTY
REPARTEE FOR YOU.

THEN AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH
I'M TRYING TO GET MY ACT
TOGETHER, THIS HASN'T
EXACTLY BEEN MY DAY FOR
KNOWING JUST WHAT TO SAY
OR WHAT TO DO, HAS IT?

CONSIDERING IT STARTED OFF
WITH MY FAILING SPECTACULARLY
IN FENCE-MENDING WITH THERESA
AND MONET, THE BEST THING
ONE CAN SAY ABOUT ME TODAY...

MULTIPLE ISSUES PART 1

PETER DAVID WRITER PABLO RAIMONDI ART BRIAN REBER COLORS VC'S CORY PETT LETTERS SEAN RYAN ASSISTANT EDITOR ANDY SCHMIDT EDITOR JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER









I CHANGED MY MIND. I CAN'T DO THIS.

GUIDO...I DINNA WANNA BE HERE. YE FORCED ME SO I COULD FORCE YE. JUST GET ON WITH IT, OKAY? BUT BE TACTFUL.

SCREW THIS. I SHOULD JUST TURN MYSELF OVER TO THE COPS, GET IT OVER WITH...

IF THAT'S WHAT YE WANT T'DO, I WON'T STAND IN YUIR W--

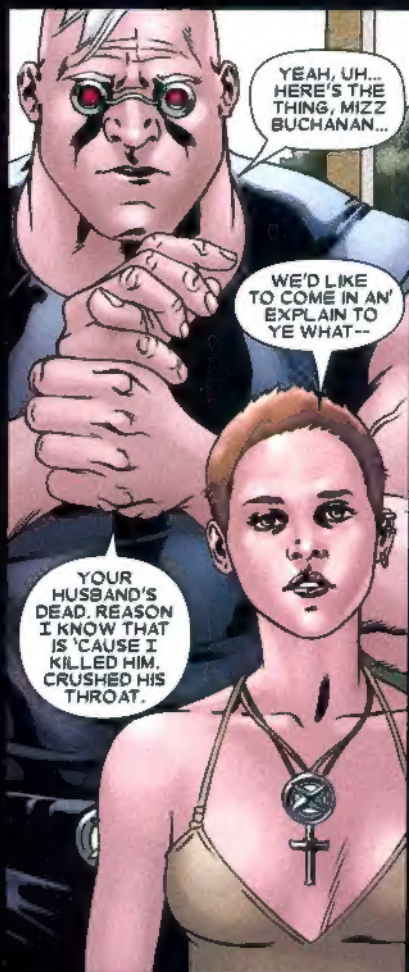


OH! MISTER, UH...CAROSELLA, IS IT...? OF X-FACTOR?

YEAH.

AND MISS SINCLAIR. I... WASN'T EXPECTING TO SEE YOU.

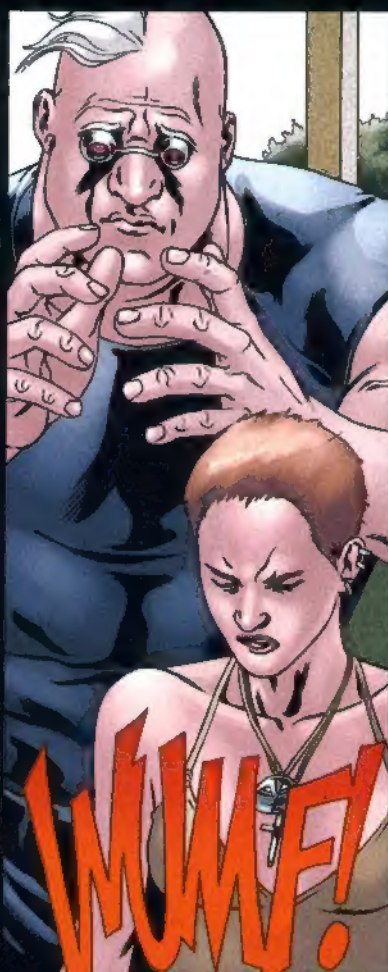
HAS THERE BEEN A BREAK IN THE CASE? DO WE KNOW WHERE--?



YEAH, UH... HERE'S THE THING, MIZZ BUCHANAN...

WE'D LIKE TO COME IN AN' EXPLAIN TO YE WHAT--

YOUR HUSBAND'S DEAD. REASON I KNOW THAT IS 'CAUSE I KILLED HIM. CRUSHED HIS THROAT.



MIZZ BUCHANAN? YOU OKAY?

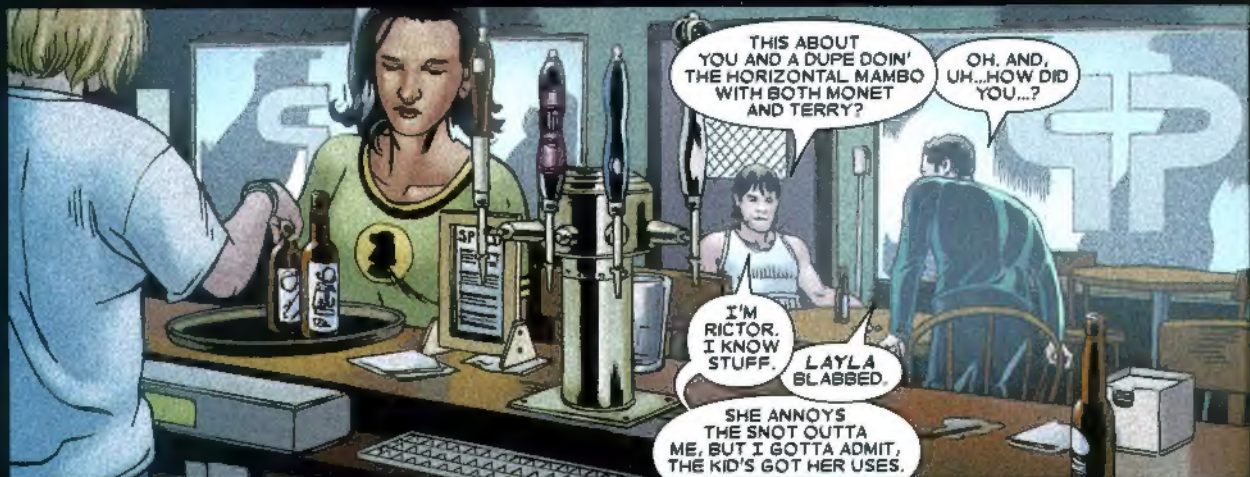
MIZZ BUCHANAN?

YEAH, BLOODY TACTFUL, THAT.



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU, MADROX? YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN AND THEN BARFED ON.

IT'S... COMPLICATED, RICTOR. AND PRIVATE. YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW.



THIS ABOUT YOU AND A DUPE DOIN' THE HORIZONTAL MAMBO WITH BOTH MONET AND TERRY?

OH, AND, UH...HOW DID YOU...?

I'M RICTOR. I KNOW STUFF.

LAYLA BLABBED

SHE ANNOYS THE SNOT OUTTA ME, BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, THE KID'S GOT HER USES.



SO...FESS UP. WHICH FILLY WAS THE WILDER RIDE?

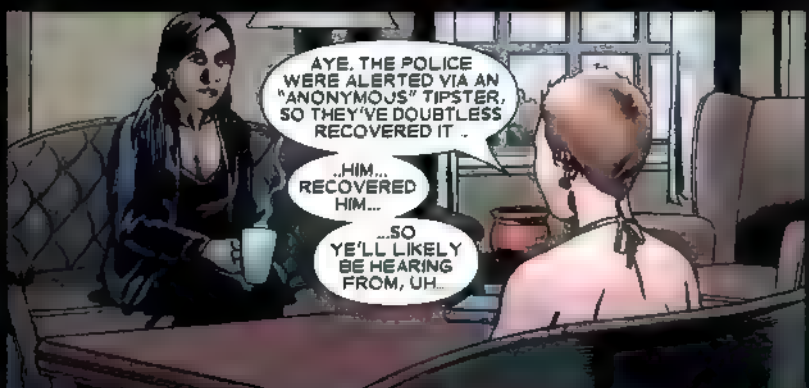
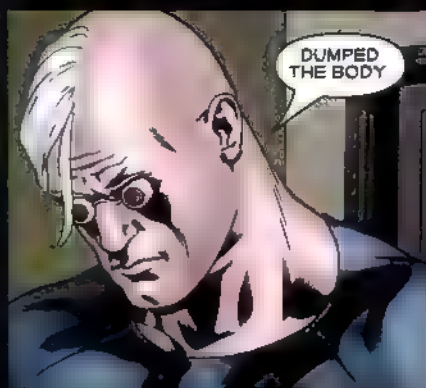
YOU'RE A PIG, RIC. Y'KNOW THAT? A REAL PIG.

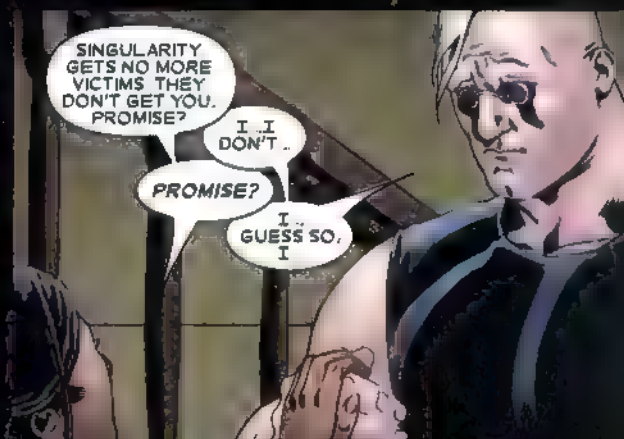
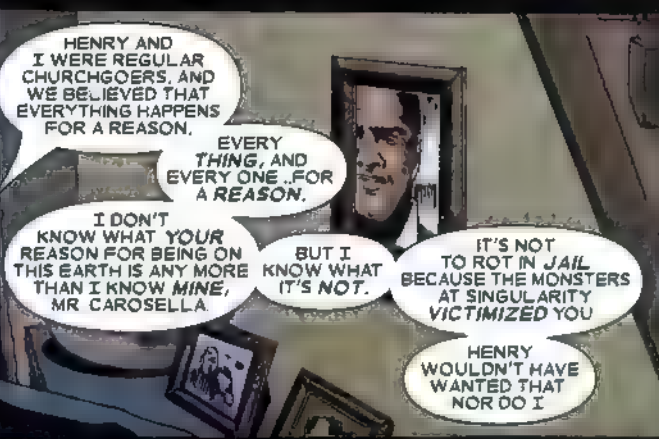
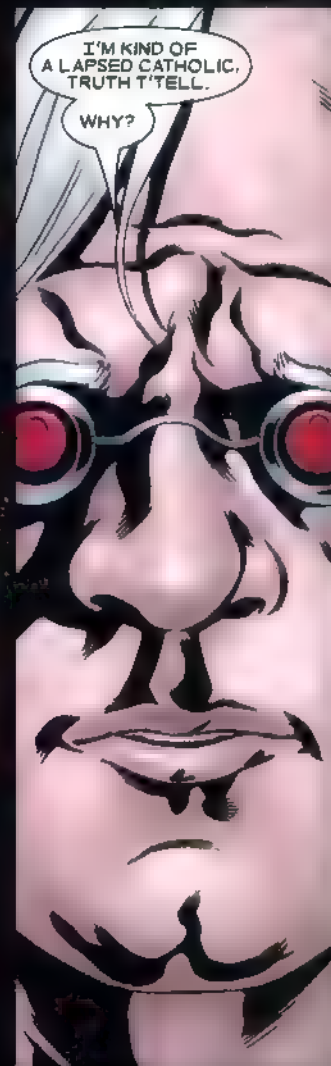


MONET.

I KNEW IT. I FREAKIN' KNEW IT.







DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, MR CAROSELLA?

HUH?

DO YOU?

I'M KIND OF A LAPSED CATHOLIC. TRUTH T'TELL.

WHY?

HENRY AND I WERE REGULAR CHURCHGOERS, AND WE BELIEVED THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON.

EVERY THING, AND EVERY ONE...FOR A REASON.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR REASON FOR BEING ON THIS EARTH IS ANY MORE THAN I KNOW MINE, MR CAROSELLA

BUT I KNOW WHAT IT'S NOT.

IT'S NOT TO ROT IN JAIL BECAUSE THE MONSTERS AT SINGULARITY VICTIMIZED YOU

HENRY WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED THAT NOR DO I

BUT HIS MURDER


WILL BE JUST ONE MORE UNSOLVED MURDER

SINGULARITY GETS NO MORE VICTIMS THEY DON'T GET YOU. PROMISE?

I DON'T.

PROMISE?

I GUESS SO, I

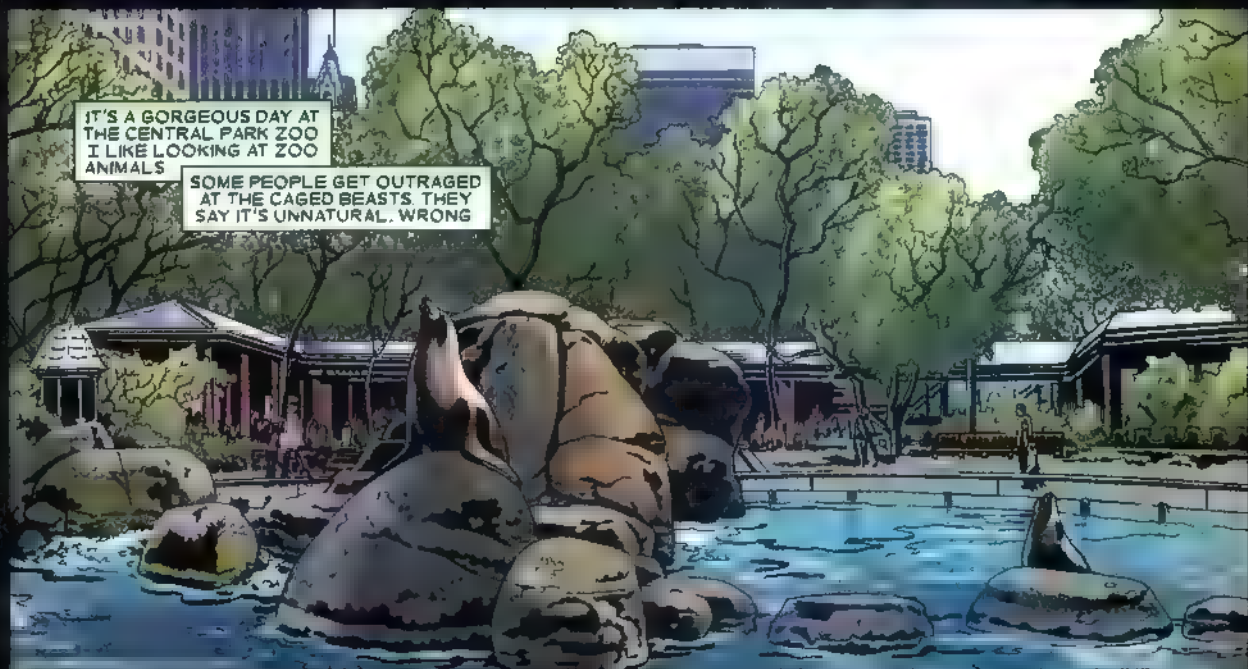


AS SURE AS I KNOW ANYTHING,
GUIDO'S MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE,
TALKING TO ALIX BUCHANAN. I
CAN JUST IMAGINE IT: THE
SCREAMING, THE RECRIMINATIONS

HE KILLED HER *HUSBAND*.
SHE'S NOT GONNA LET HIM
WALK AWAY FROM THAT.
SHE'S PROBABLY CALLING
THE COPS RIGHT NOW.

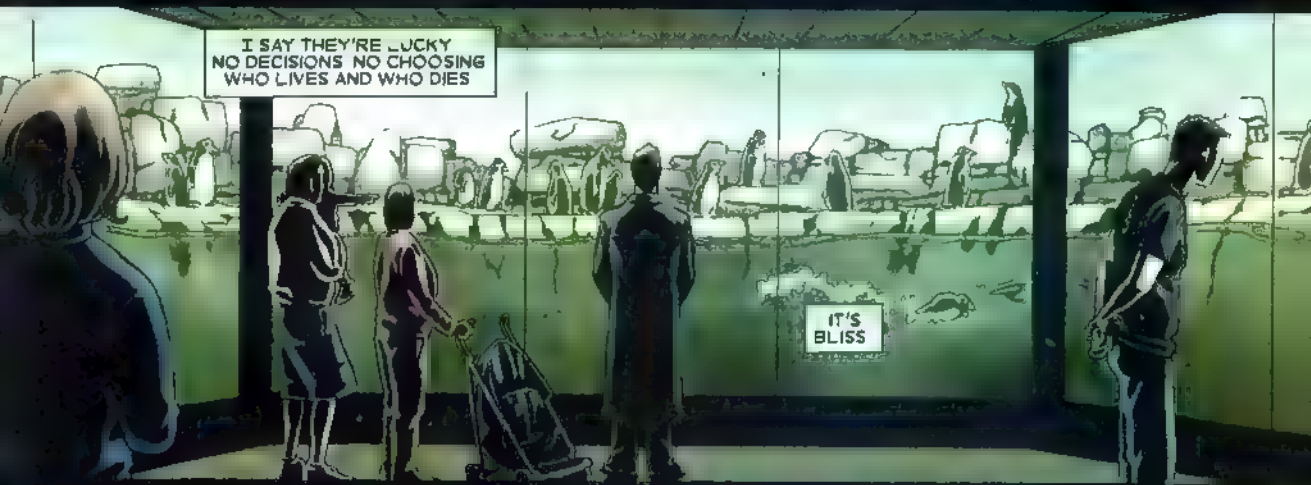
I WISH I COULD HELP HIM, OR
HER, OR SOMEBODY. BUT HOW
CAN I DO THAT WHEN I CAN'T
EVEN HELP MYSELF?

SO I FIGURE MAYBE I NEED
SOMEBODY TO HELP ME
HELP MYSELF, AND THERE'S
ONLY ONE GUY FOR THE JOB.



IT'S A GORGEOUS DAY AT THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO I LIKE LOOKING AT ZOO ANIMALS

SOME PEOPLE GET OUTRAGED AT THE CAGED BEASTS. THEY SAY IT'S UNNATURAL. WRONG



I SAY THEY'RE LUCKY NO DECISIONS NO CHOOSING WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES

IT'S BLISS



REMEMBER CUTE AND CUDDLY, BOYS CUTE AND CUDDLY.

YOU ARE AWARE, JAMIE, THAT YOU COULD HAVE JUST COME TO MY OFFICE

YEAH, I KNOW THANKS FOR COMING OUT HERE, DOC



NOT A PROBLEM "LEONARD SAMSON, SHRINK HAVE COUGH, WILL TRAVEL" IT'S RIGHT ON MY BUSINESS CARD.

SO HOW ARE THINGS WITH MONET AND THERESA GOING?

HOW DO YOU THINK?



WELL, I DON'T SEE GLASS SHARDS IN YOUR HAIR, SO I TAKE IT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THROWN THROUGH ANOTHER WINDOW

WHICH, DON'T GET ME WRONG, IS A NICE CHANGE OF PACE.

BUT I WAS HOPING FOR MORE OUT OF LIFE THAN NOT BEING DEFENESTRATED, Y'KNOW?



I READ
WITHIN A FEW DECADES,
POLAR BEARS MIGHT BE
EXTINCT 'CAUSE OF GLOBAL
WARMING, COURTESY
OF MANKIND.



HOW DO
YOU FEEL ABOUT
THAT?

IT SUCKS
FOR ONE THING,
WHAT'LL THEY USE
TO SELL "COCA-
COLA?"

YES, THAT'S
THE TRUE TRAGEDY
OF IT. COME ON,
JAMIE



I THINK IT
SHOWS THAT THINGS
OF BEAUTY CAN BE HURT
WITHOUT ANYBODY
INTENDING TO

IS THAT WHAT
YOU BELIEVE YOU
DID WITH THERESA
AND MONET?



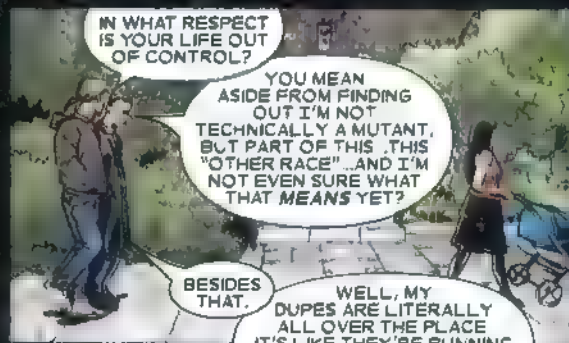
JAMIE?



IT'S JUST THAT,
I FEEL LIKE I'M ALL
OVER THE PLACE
LITERALLY.

AND BECAUSE
MY LIFE IS OUT OF
CONTROL, THE TEAM'S
OUT OF CONTROL THE
WIDENING GYRE, CENTER
CANNOT HOLD, THAT
WHOLE THING

I NEED
TO PULL IT
TOGETHER, BUT
I DON'T KNOW
HOW.

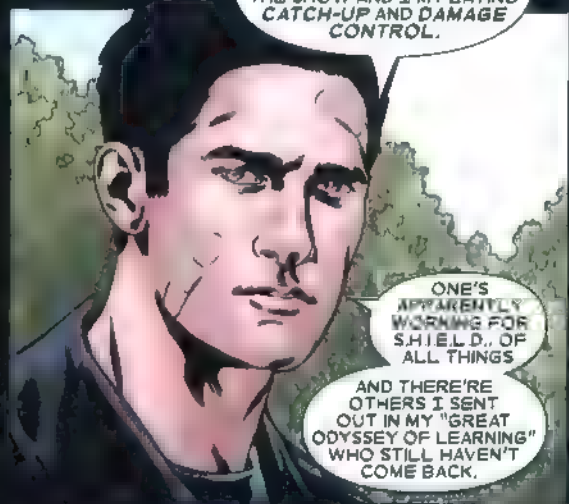


IN WHAT RESPECT
IS YOUR LIFE OUT
OF CONTROL?

YOU MEAN
ASIDE FROM FINDING
OUT I'M NOT
TECHNICALLY A MUTANT,
BUT PART OF THIS "THIS
"OTHER RACE" ...AND I'M
NOT EVEN SURE WHAT
THAT MEANS YET?

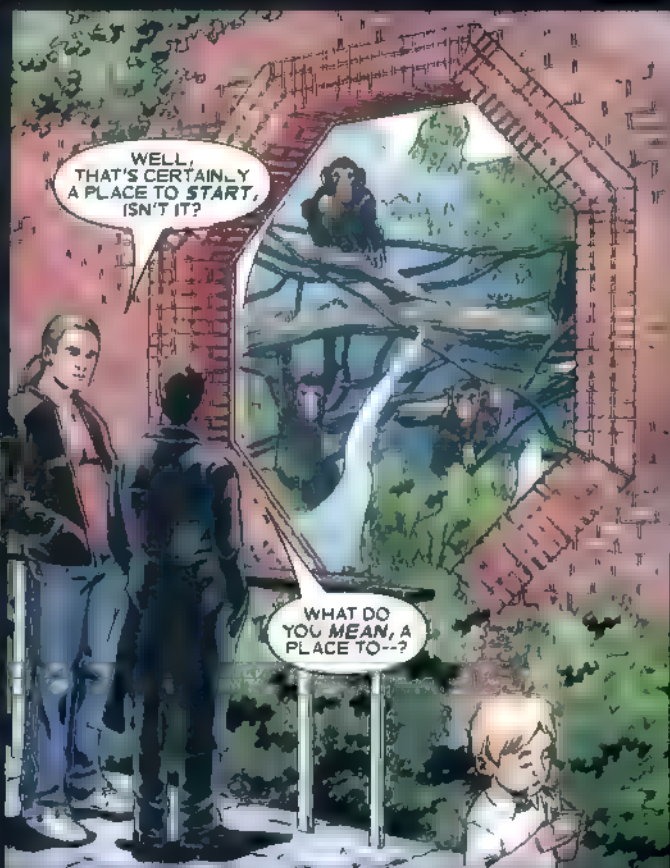
BESIDES
THAT.

WELL, MY
DUPES ARE LITERALLY
ALL OVER THE PLACE
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE RUNNING
THE SHOW AND I'M PLAYING
CATCH-UP AND DAMAGE
CONTROL.



ONE'S
APPARENTLY
WORKING FOR
S.H.I.E.L.D., OF
ALL THINGS

AND THERE'RE
OTHERS I SENT
OUT IN MY "GREAT
ODYSSEY OF LEARNING"
WHO STILL HAVEN'T
COME BACK.



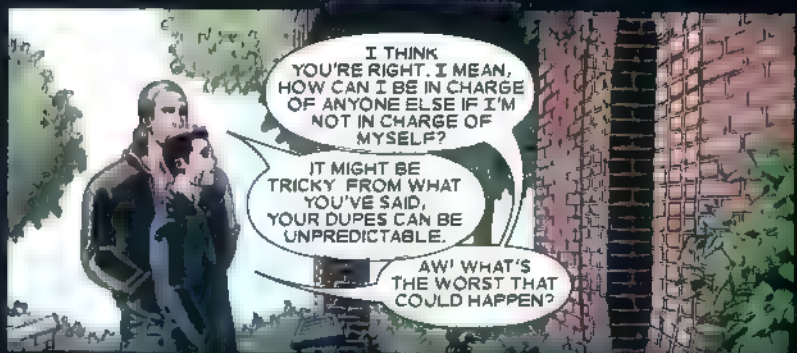
WELL,
THAT'S CERTAINLY
A PLACE TO START,
ISN'T IT?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN, A
PLACE TO--?



OH! YOU
MEAN GET MYSELF
TOGETHER BY DOING
THAT LITERALLY. GO
OUT AND GATHER UP
MY STRAY DUPES

IT'S A
WAY TO START,
CERTAINLY



I THINK
YOU'RE RIGHT. I MEAN,
HOW CAN I BE IN CHARGE
OF ANYONE ELSE IF I'M
NOT IN CHARGE OF
MYSELF?

IT MIGHT BE
TRICKY FROM WHAT
YOU'VE SAID,
YOUR DUPES CAN BE
UNPREDICTABLE.

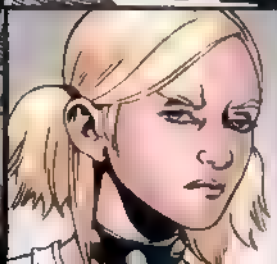
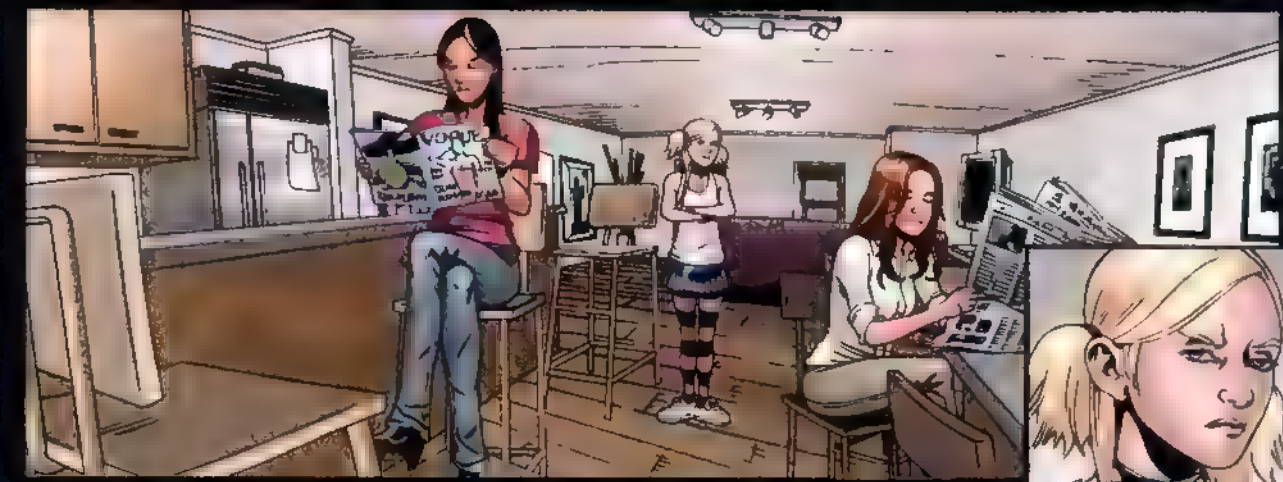
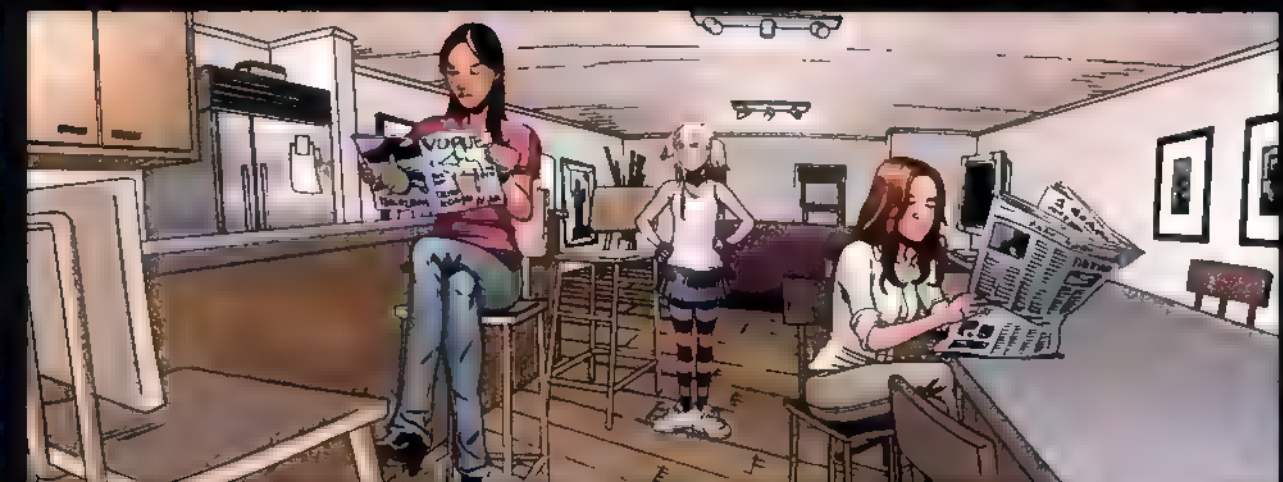
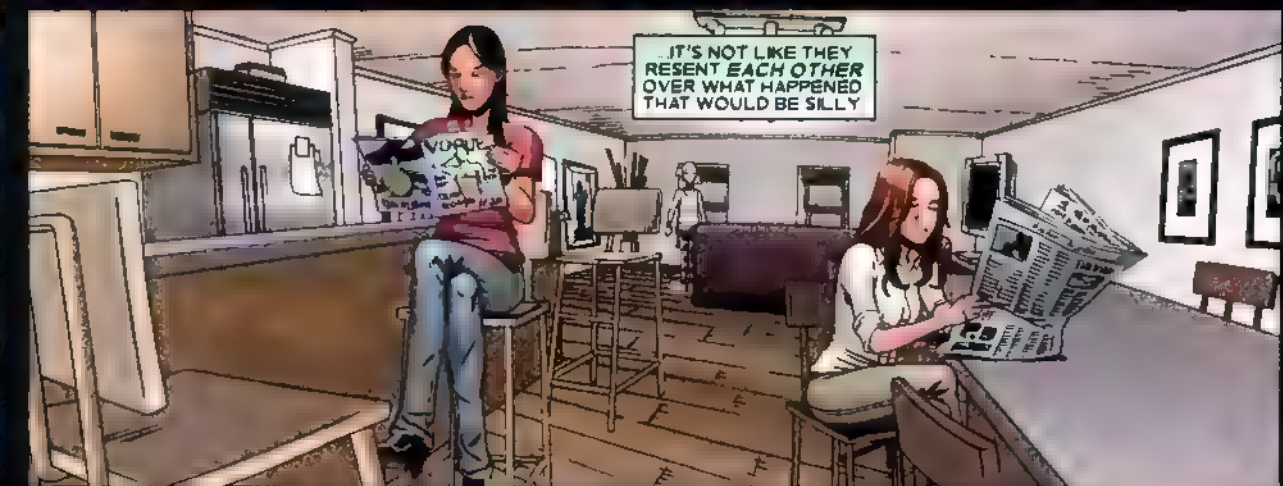
AW! WHAT'S
THE WORST THAT
COULD HAPPEN?

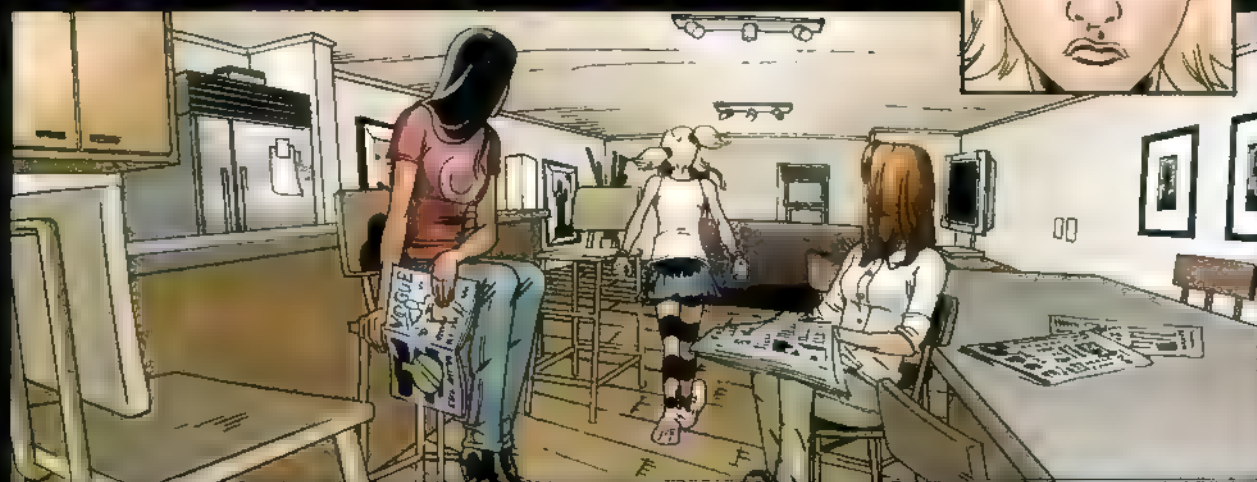
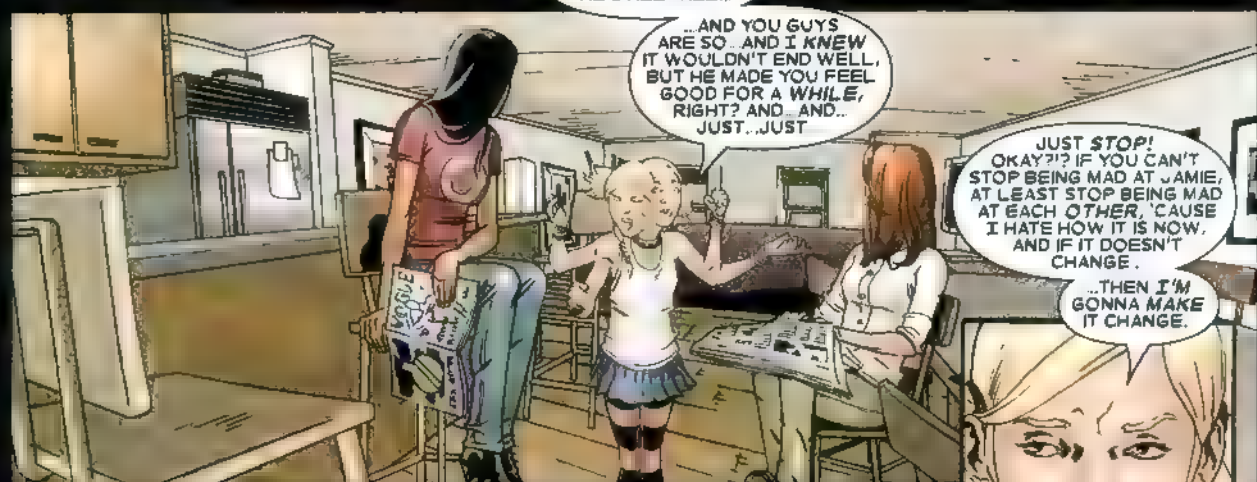
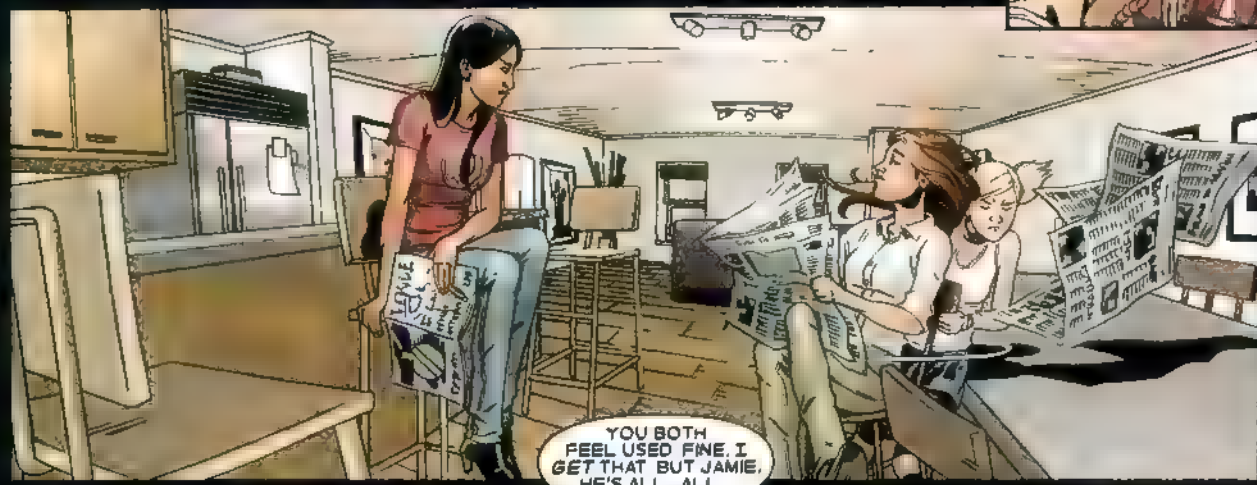
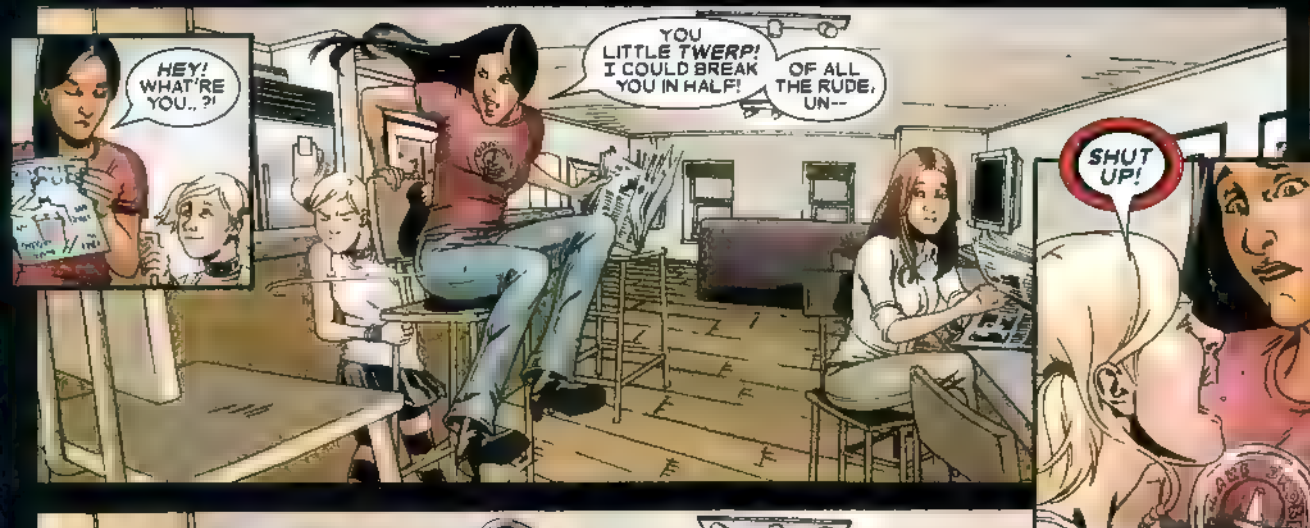


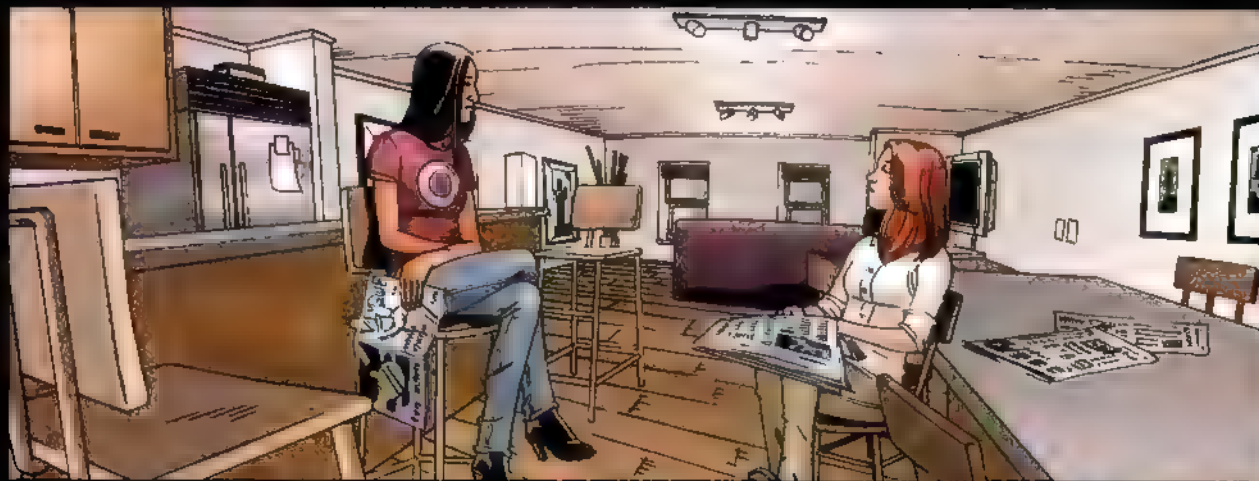
WOW NO
MONKEY'S EVER
THROWN
EXCREMENT AT
ME BEFORE

THINK
THAT'S AN
OMEN?

LET'S
HOPE NOT





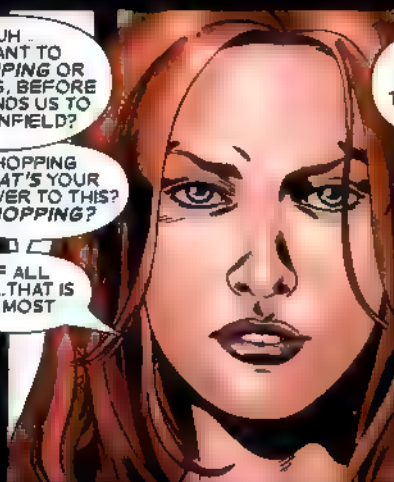


SO, UH...
YOU WANT TO
GO **SHOPPING** OR
SOMETHING, BEFORE
LAYLA SENDS US TO
THE CORNFIELD?

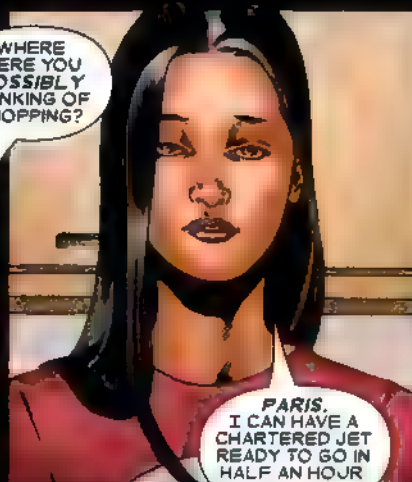
SHOPPING
THAT'S YOUR
ANSWER TO THIS?
SHOPPING?

YUP

OF ALL
THE...THAT IS
THE MOST



WHERE
WERE YOU
POSSIBLY
THINKING OF
SHOPPING?



PARIS.
I CAN HAVE A
CHARTERED JET
READY TO GO IN
HALF AN HOUR



YEAH, ALL
RIGHT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS
OF THE SUPER HERO INTERNMENT,
ELIMINATION AND LICENSING DIVISION

THAT'S NOT WHAT IT
ACTUALLY STANDS FOR
JUST WHAT IT'S BECOME

AND I--OR MORE
ACCURATELY, ONE
OF MY DUPES--
IS AN AGENT HERE

HE CONFUSED THE HELL
OUT OF MY PEOPLE WHEN
HE CAME TO SIGN THEM UP
FOR THE REGISTRATION ACT

"MY PEOPLE." I
WONDER IF I EVEN HAVE
"PEOPLE" ANYMORE.

C'MON, MADROX, STAY
FOCUSED DON'T BE
ANY MORE "ALL OVER
THE PLACE" THAN YOU
ALREADY ARE

AT LEAST GETTING IN *HERE*
WAS NO PROBLEM. THEN
AGAIN, WHY SHOULD IT BE? I'M
ONE OF THEIR GUYS, RIGHT?

BUT THE PLACE IS
LIKE A MAZE I--

MADROX,
YOU OKAY? YOU
LOOK A LITTLE
CONFUSED.

JUST A
HEADACHE FEELING
DIZZY... GOT KIND
OF TURNED AROUND
HEADING TO MY
OFFICE

I DON'T
BLAME YOU BEEN
HERE TWO
YEARS, I STILL GET
CONFUSED

YOUR OFFICE
IS DOWN THERE,
THIRD DOOR ON
THE RIGHT

I
THOUGHT
THAT WAS IT.
THANKS

EVERY TIME I COME OUT OF
A SESSION WITH DOC, I DO
SOMETHING... AND IT WINDS UP
A COMPLETE DISASTER. YOU'D
THINK I'D GET THE HINT

HEY,
THERE

HEY THERE
YOURSELF

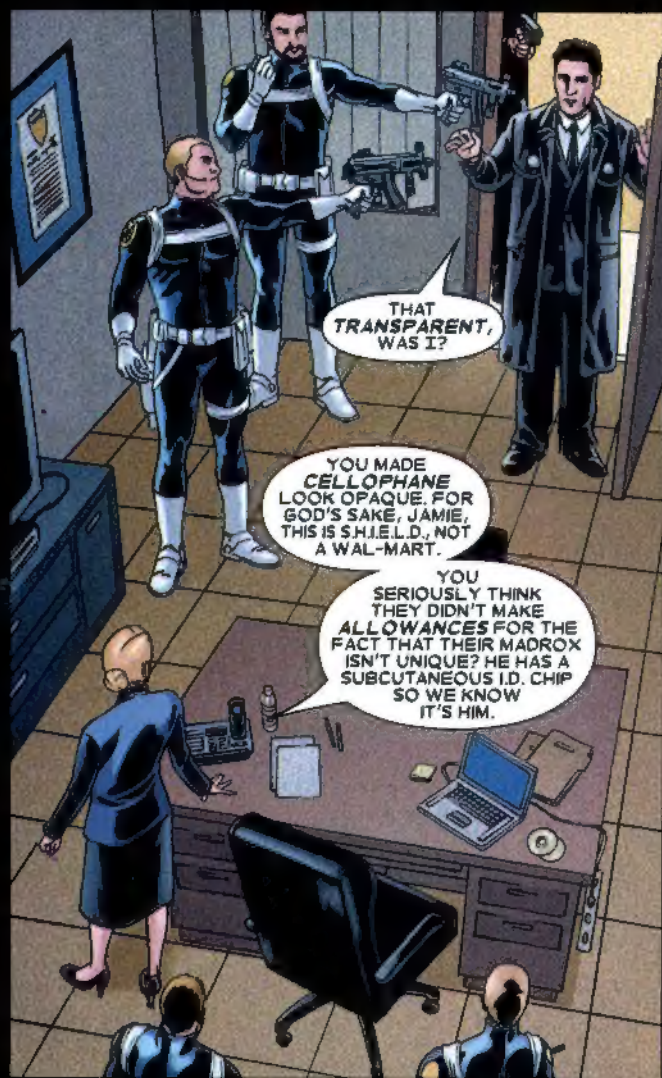
VAL???

YUP VAL
COOPER, YOUR
OLD BOSS, BACK
IN THE DAY.

YOU'RE
WITH SHIELD
NOW?

NOOO, STILL
WITH THE OFFICE OF
NATIONAL EMERGENCY
I HAD A MEETING HERE
LUCKILY FOR YOU.

THEY WERE
READY TO DROP
YOU THE **SECOND**
YOU BLUFFED YOUR
WAY IN I TALKED
THEM OUT OF IT



THAT
TRANSPARENT,
WAS I?

YOU MADE
CELLOPHANE
LOOK OPAQUE. FOR
GOD'S SAKE, JAMIE,
THIS IS S.H.I.E.L.D., NOT
A WAL-MART.

YOU
SERIOUSLY THINK
THEY DIDN'T MAKE
ALLOWANCES FOR THE
FACT THAT THEIR MADROX
ISN'T UNIQUE? HE HAS A
SUBCUTANEOUS I.D. CHIP
SO WE KNOW
IT'S HIM.



"SO WE
KNOW?" VAL, WHEN
IT COMES TO ME, YOU
KNOW ZILCH.

MY DUPES
ARE BECOMING UNSTABLE.
YOU NEED ME TO TAKE THE
ONE YOU'VE GOT OFF YOUR
HANDS, BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE.

JAMIE--LISTEN
CAREFULLY. THE
ONLY REASON YOU'RE
NOT IN JAIL IS
BECAUSE OF ME.

YOU?

YES, I'VE
BEEN RUNNING
INTERFERENCE BETWEEN
THE FEDS AND YOUR AGENCY,
OUT OF A SENSE OF...I
DON'T KNOW. CALL IT FOR
OLD TIMES' SAKE.

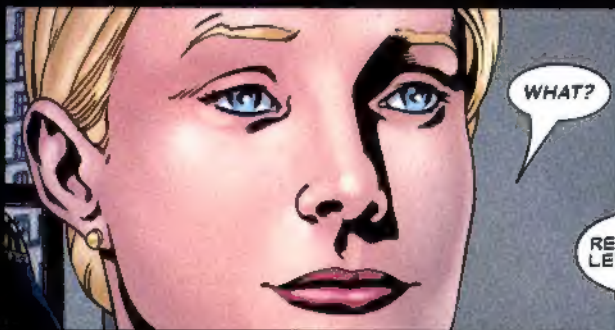


I THINK
YOU HAVE A LOT
TO CONTRIBUTE. BUT
I CAN'T PROTECT
YOU FOREVER.

I DON'T
NEED YOUR
PROTECTION.

YES, YOU DO.
MORE THAN YOU
KNOW. AND STAY
OUT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
WAY. GOT IT?

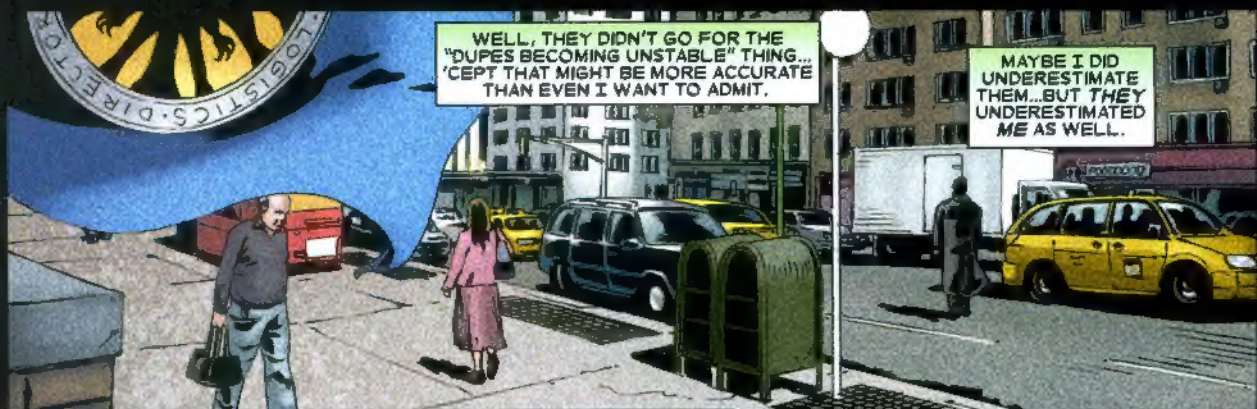
VAL...?



WHAT?



THIS WAS
REALLY SPECIAL.
LET'S DO IT AGAIN
SOON.



WELL, THEY DIDN'T GO FOR THE "DUPES BECOMING UNSTABLE" THING... 'CEPT THAT MIGHT BE MORE ACCURATE THAN EVEN I WANT TO ADMIT.

MAYBE I DID UNDERESTIMATE THEM...BUT THEY UNDERESTIMATED ME AS WELL.



I HAVE A LOW-LEVEL PSYCHIC LINK TO ALL MY DUPES. I CAN TRACK ONE TO A GENERAL AREA BY CONCENTRATING...

...AND THE CLOSER I GET, THE MORE I KNOW IT.

EXCUSE ME, MISTER...?

HE WAS THERE. IN THE NEXT ROOM OR SOMEWHERE CLOSE. AND THAT MEANS--

MISTER?

SORRY, HONEY, I WAS HAVING AN INNER MONOLOGUE.

WHAT?

NOTHING. WHAT'S UP?

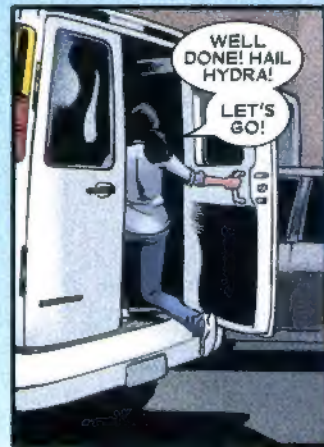
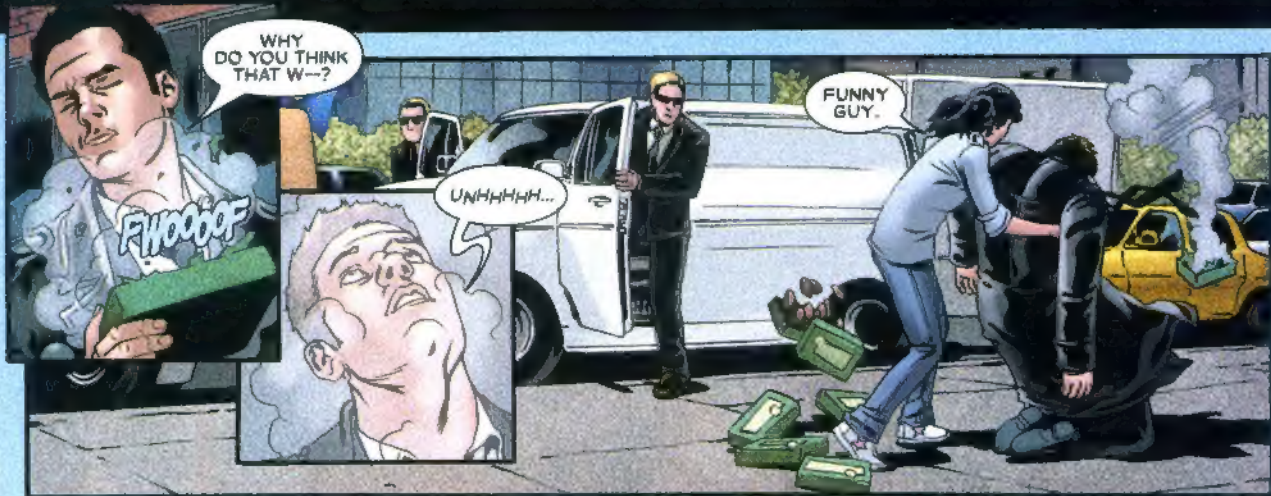


WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME COOKIES? I HAVE THIN MINTS.

OH, YEAH?



I HAD AN OVERWEIGHT FRIEND WHO ATE A BOX OF THIN MINTS EVERY DAY. NEVER GOT THIN.



Diesel Industry
DCP Scan

